

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) Process for making a monofilament-like product comprising the steps of:
 - a) exposing a precursor of indefinite length containing at least one strand comprised of a spun yarn of polyolefin staple fibres to a temperature within the melting point range of the polyolefin fibres for a time sufficient to soften the staple fibers without partial melting and allow adjacent staple fibers to at least partly fuse to one another, and
 - b) simultaneously with step a) stretching the precursor at a draw ratio of at least 1.0.
2. (original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the draw ratio is from 1.2 to 25.
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is ultra- high molar mass polyethylene.
4. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the staple fibres have been obtained by stretch-breaking of a polyolefin multifilament yarn.
5. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the precursor contains plied and twisted strands.
6. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising a step preceding step a) of pretreating the precursor in order to enhance inter fibre bonding.
7. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein pretreating comprises applying an oil to the precursor.

8. (original) Process according to claim 6, wherein pretreating comprises applying a polyurethane composition to the precursor.
9. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising a step of applying a coating composition to the product after steps a) and b).
10. (withdrawn) Monofilament-like product comprising an at least partly fused spun yarn made from polyolefin staple fibres made by the process according to claim 1.
11. (withdrawn) A fishing line which comprises a monofilament-like product according to claim 10.
12. (withdrawn) A cut-resistant article which comprises a monofilament-like product according to claim 10.
13. (withdrawn) Monofilament-like product according to claim 10, comprising an outer surface layer in which the polyolefin staple fibers are at least partly fused to one another.
14. (withdrawn) Monofilament-like product according to claim 13, wherein the polyolefin staple fibers are at least partly fused to one another in both the outer surface layer and an inner layer of the product.
15. (withdrawn) Monofilament-like product comprising a spun yarn made from polyolefin staple fibers, wherein adjacent ones of the staple fibers are at least partly fused without being partially melted.
16. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein step a) is practiced such that adjacent polyolefin staple fibers in at least an outer surface layer of the monofilament-like product are at least partly fused to one another without partial melting.

VEILLAT et al
Serial No. 10/530,435
December 11, 2008

17. (previously presented) Process according to claim 16, wherein step a) is practiced to at least partly fuse staple fibers to one another without melting in both the outer layer and an inner layer of the monofilament-like product.